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The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

DD/A Registry 85-2038

Executive Registry 2250

6 June 1985

NOTE FOR: Chief, Psychological Services Division

Office of Medical Services

Bernie:

Appreciated your suggestion for improving Agency selection processing. I have passed it on to Bob Magee and asked him to get together with you to see if he can work something out.

/S/ John w. homahon

John N. McMahon

cc: ExDir

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21 May 1985

SUBJECT: A Proposal Focused Upon Possible Improved Efficiency In Agency Selection Processing

COMMENTS:

The observations which follow draw upon data recording systems which are not standarized in terms of time base-lines (FY vs. CY data) or most importantly in terms of definition of "who is an applicant?" In the present proposal, every attempt has been made to standardize data reporting.

While several data points may not agree perfectly with office statistics of record, the data cited are sufficiently accurate for identifying several principles which negatively influence Agency selection processing.

PRINCIPLE I

As gross numbers of applicants presented for Agency selection processing increase, the proportion of applicants found "unsuitable for employment" increases disproportionately both at the level of the earliest legitimate screens (PATB Testing) as well as at the level of the final (most expensive to the Agency) Headquarters screens.

DATA POINTS

EARLIEST LEGITIMATE SCREENS (PATB TESTING)

		FY82	FY83	<u>FY84</u>	EST. FY85			
STAT	Numbers Tested							
STAT	"Not Recommended for Further Processing	a"						
	FINAL SCREENS (HEADQUARTERS PROCESSING)							
		FY82	<u>FY83</u>	FY84	EST. FY85			
STAT	Numbers Processed							
	Numbers Rejected							
	(*Raw numbers provided first half of FY85 pro	lare ba cessing	sed upon activiti	extrapo les.)	lations from the			

The reader is cautioned not to compare/contrast "PATB Testing" data directly with "Final Screening" data. First, no clerical level applicant placed into "Headquarters Screening" has completed the PATB (clerical applicants represent about 1 in 3 of all "Headquarters Screening" applicants). Second, of all Professional Level applicants who reach "Headquarters Screening, at least 1 in 5 have not passed through the PATB early screen. All of these cited facts warn against highly detailed analyses of available data.

In spite of the disparities in collection problems cited, present data support the contention that the number of identified "unsuitables" (early and late screens) increase at a rate greater than the rate of applicant input to the system.

PRINCIPLE I1

The human resource cost to the system to accomplish a "discontinue processing" action during final (Headquarters) screening is at least twice that of the cost to accomplish "approved for Agency employment" during final screening.

PRINCIPLE III

To the extent it is possible to define a pool of applicants identified as "Most Likely to Succeed" (MLTS) in terms of Headquarters Processing, to that extent the Agency can anticipate:

- l. a greater proportion of "Approved for Employment"
 among Headquarters processed applicants, and
- 2. a more efficient time and personnel concentration of resources in the selection processing system since processing of MLTS candidates (Fast Track) requires 50% or less effort than processing of Slow Track applicants.

SPECIFIC PROPOSAL

It is proposed that groups of senior representatives of OMS, OP and OS be constituted to review completed applicant files. It would be the task of these groups to sort all applicant files into the MLTS category (Fast Track) or into the "Default" category (Slow Track) based upon the combined judgment of the group (a judgment executed prior to review of the materials by the Expediter group).

Once an applicant is categorized as MLTS, he/she would be given priority in terms of Headquarters processing. (If and when there is a dearth of MLTS candidates in the system, the "Default"candidates would be assigned Headquarters processing slots.)

SUPPORT DATA

For years Selection Support Branch (Applicant Psychiatric Screening) has reviewed applicant files data with the Expediters (file review of at least 50% of all applicants who eventually reach Headquarters Final Processing). Based on these file reviews, Selection Support Branch (SSB) identified MLTS and two levels of "Default" or "Least Likely to Succeed." Of the MLTS adjudged (SSB) cases, 100% were approved for employment. Of the two levels of "Default" (SSB) adjudged cases, 20% (1 in 5) were eventually excluded from Agency employment either by virtue of a Medical/Psychiatric Disqualification or by virtue of an Applicant Review Panel (ARP) vote recommending rejection to D/OP.

CONCLUSIONS

It is possible, through careful review of applicant files by veteran representatives from OMS, OP and OS, to sort all applications into MLTS and "Default" categories.

It is suggested that a Senior Review Group (SRG) be formed to sort applicant files into MLTS vs. "Default" (Fast vs. Slow Track).

It is further proposed that all SRG files sorted into the MLTS category be given priority processing. After all currently available MLTS applicants have been assigned Headquarters Processing "slots", then (and only then) should "Default" category applicants be assigned. (It is reasonably assumed that OP and OS also possess criteria for evaluating applicant cases in terms of MLTS vs. "Default.")

COMMENTARY

While it would be desirable to totally reject "Default" cases and to process only MLTS cases, the data base does not support such action.

What the data base does support is some action (using the expertise of the SRG) to identify the MLTS's vs. the "Defaults" in order to boost the efficiency of the present selection system while preserving our processing resources.